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(12) **United States Patent**  
**Boorman et al.**

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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING PROXY-BASED ONLINE DUTCH AUCTION SERVICES**

(75) Inventors: **Rick Boorman**, Mountain View, CA (US); **Mike Brors**, Fremont, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **DoveBid, Inc.**, Foster City, CA (US)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/578,457**

(22) Filed: **May 22, 2000**

## Related U.S. Application Data

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(51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... **C06F 17/60**

(52) U.S. Cl. .... **705/37; 705/35**

(58) Field of Search ..... **705/37**

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*Primary Examiner*—V. Millin

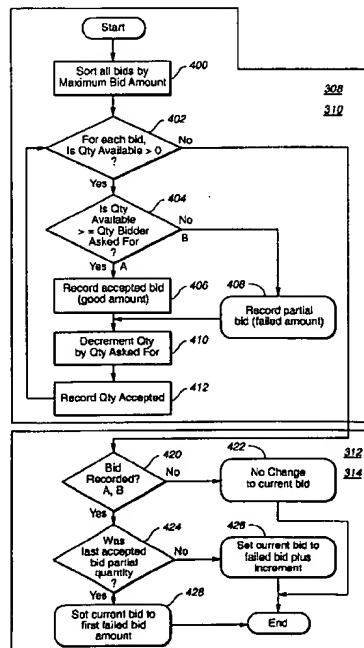
*Assistant Examiner*—Charles R. Kyle

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Alzheimer & Gray; Michael A Molano; John F. Griffith

(57) **ABSTRACT**

In a method for providing proxy-based online Dutch auction services, an auction server or manager receives bid messages from a set of auction participants during the course of an auction. Each bid message may include a participant ID, a quantity requested value, a current proxy value indicating a maximum amount that the participant corresponding to the participant ID is willing to pay, and a partial quantity acceptance flag. The auction manager ranks or prioritizes bids in accordance with participants' current proxy values; determines current auction winners and losers and allocates offered items accordingly; determines a new current bid amount; and automatically adjusts participant bid values in accordance with participants the new current bid amount as well as the participants' current proxy values and status as winners or losers. In determining a new current minimum bid amount, the auction manager may selectively adjust an existing bid amount by an increment value depending upon whether a bid has been recorded, and/or whether a recorded bid corresponds to a complete or partial item quantity.

**21 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets**



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TITLE: System and method for providing proxy-based online Dutch auction services

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Abstract Text - ABTX (1):

In a method for providing proxy-based online Dutch auction services, an auction server or manager receives bid messages from a set of auction participants during the course of an auction. Each bid message may include a participant ID, a quantity requested value, a current proxy value indicating a maximum amount that the participant corresponding to the participant ID is willing to pay, and a partial quantity acceptance flag. The auction manager ranks or prioritizes bids in accordance with participants' current proxy values; determines current auction winners and losers and allocates offered items accordingly; determines a new current bid amount; and automatically adjusts participant bid values in accordance with participants the new current bid amount as well as the participants' current proxy values and status as winners or losers. In determining a new current minimum bid amount, the auction manager may selectively adjust an existing bid amount by an increment value depending upon whether a bid has been recorded, and/or whether a recorded bid corresponds to a complete or partial item quantity.

TITLE - TI (1):

System and method for providing proxy-based online Dutch auction services